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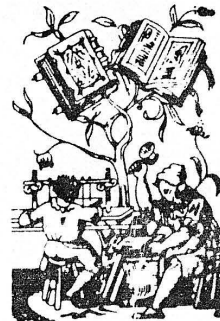
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KEAHEY CLANSMEN REVISITED

BY EMMA BARRETT REEVES

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HUSBAND'S NAME JOHN KEAHEY (OR MACKEACHEY)

When Born CA. 1750 Where _____
Christened _____ Where _____
When Died OCT. 26, 1823 Where WAYNE CO., MS
When Buried _____ Where _____
When Married CA. 1780 Where _____
Other Wives (if any) _____
His Father WILLIAM MACKEACHEY His Mother's Maiden Name MARGARET

Information on this sheet obtained from
"KEAHEY CLANSMEN
REVISITED" BY
EMMA BARRETT REEVES

(Husband's Full Name)

(Wife's Maiden Name)

Date Nov. 25, 1981
Compiler Samuel James Haworth
Address P.O. Box 815
City LEAKESVILLE State MS

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME MARTHA JACKSON

When Born _____ Where _____
Christened _____ Where _____
When Died APR. 1, 1824 Where WAYNE CO., MS
When Buried _____ Where _____
Other Husb. (if any) _____
Her Father SAMUEL JACKSON Her Mother's Maiden Name CHRISTIAN

Pg

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Male or Female	CHILDREN (Arrange in order of birth)	When Born Day Month Year	Where Born Town or Place County	State or Country	Married to	When Married Day Month Year	When Died Day Month Year	Where Buried Town or Place County	State or Country
F	1 CHRISTIAN	CA. 1780	RICHMOND	N.C.	ROBERT GRAHAM				MS
M	2 JOHN, JR.	CA. 1785	RICHMOND	N.C.					
F	3 MARY	14 5 1787	RICHMOND	N.C.	JOHN MCFARLAND	CA. 1813	26 8 1822	WAYNESBORO WAYNE	MS
M	4 WILLIAM	12 7 1786	RICHMOND	N.C.	JANE CLARK	CA. 1816	5 3 1857	BOYCE WAYNE	MS
M	5 GEORGE JACKSON	12 4 1789	RICHMOND	N.C.	MARGARET KEAHEY COPANDER	19 9 1816	3 4 1878	HILLSBORO SCOTT	MS
F	6 MARGARET				McRAE				
M	7 WILLIAM SAMPLES	CA. 1812			MARY ROEBUCK MARTHA BURNHAM		29 8 1884	JASPER	TEX.
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HUSBAND'S NAME JOHN McFARLAND

When Born SEPT 1785 Where _____
Christened _____ Where _____
When Died FEB. 12, 1853 Where JASPER CO., MS
When Buried _____ Where _____
When Married 1813 Where N.C.
Other Wives (if any) _____
His Father (REV.) JOHN McFARLAND, SR. His Mother's Maiden Name _____

Information on this sheet obtained from
EUGENIA (MAPLES) DENMARK
RHODA (McLEOD) PIPRINS
"KEAHEY CLANSMEN
REVISITED" BY
EMMA BARRETT REEVES

(Husband's Full Name)

(Wife's Maiden Name)

Date Nov. 25, 1981

Compiler Jamie L. Jackson

Address P.O. Box 615

City LEAKESVILLE State MS

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME MARY KEAHEY

When Born MAY 14, 1787 Where RICHMOND CO., N.C.
Christened _____ Where _____
When Died AUG. 26, 1822 Where WAYNESBORO, MS
When Buried _____ Where _____
Other Husb. (if any) _____
Her Father JOHN KEAHEY Her Mother's Maiden Name MARTHA JACKSON

Pg

Form P-6 Rev. 1-78
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Male or Female	CHILDREN (Arrange in order of birth)	When Born			Where Born		State or Country	Married to	When Married			When Died			Where Buried		State or Country
		Day	Month	Year	Town or Place	County			Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year	Town or Place	County	
M	1 GEORGE JACKSON	10	5	1815			N.C.	MARY ANN KEAHEY	25	6	1846	26	10	1877	HEIDELBURG	JASPER	MS
M	2 JOHN BROWN	27	12	1816				FLORA McCRAVEY	6	1854	1	8	1889				
M	3 WILLIAM SMILEY			1819									1824				
F	4 SARAH	4	5	1821	WAYNE	MS	MS	FARQUHAR McLEOD	4	1839	5	8	1905	SCOTLAND CEMETARY	GREENE	MS	
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Keahey Family

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FOREWORD

Of all the research that I have done, none has been more difficult than this on the Keahey family. After several years of fruitless research, I had an inkling that there had been a Keahey descendant before me who had done much work on the family history, even making a trip to Scotland and Ireland, but his name and location eluded me.

It was quite by chance that I learned of Dr. Cyril Cain of State College of Mississippi, through whom I secured a copy of *The History of an Old Church and Her People, 1821-1950*.¹ This was a history compiled from the records of The Presbyterian Historical Foundation at Montreat, N. C., and from the minutes of the old Philadelphia Presbyterian Church in Wayne County, Miss., said to be the oldest Presbyterian church west of the Alleghanies. It was organized on Saturday, March 31, 1821 in the living room of our ancestor, John Keahey, by the following charter members: John Keahey, Sr. and wife, Martha;² John McFarland, and wife, Mary; James Keahey, Sr. (then a widower, his wife, Mary, having died in 1813 in N. C.); William Keahey, and his wife, Jane Clark; Robert Graham, and his wife, Christian;³ and George J. Keahey, and wife, Margaret. John McFarland was elected to be the Ruling Elder of the new church. It was also from this history that I learned of Miss Annie McFarland, a retired school teacher of Heidelberg, Miss., to whom I wrote immediately. To my great delight, I found that she was a descendant of that first Ruling Elder, and that she shared my interest in both the Jackson and Keahey families, because John McFarland's wife was Mary Keahey. It was Annie McFarland who produced a yellowed page from an old account book on which the Bible Record of George Jackson Keahey had been copied by his youngest son, Preston G. Keahey. This gave me proof that George Jackson Keahey's firstborn was my great-grandfather, John Robert Jackson Keahey, born in Wayne County, in 1817, before Mississippi was made a state, and that the wife of George Jackson Keahey was his cousin, Margaret Keahey.

I had learned, near the outset of my research, that there were three men named MacKeahey in the 1790 Census of Richmond County, N. C. Further study led to the fact that they belonged to the caravan of Scotsmen who immigrated to Mississippi about

¹A copy may be secured from Mrs. Paul Griffith, Rt. 2, Waynesboro, Miss. 39367. Price \$2.00.

²Martha; and Mary, wife of James Keahey; were daughters of Col. William and wife, Christian, Jackson, of Moore County, N. C.

³Christian Graham was likely the daughter of John Keahey, but we have had no contact with descendants and have no proof.

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5. They were John, James, and George, each of whom had a namesake, and sons named after each of his brothers. George died in North Carolina, as did Mary, the wife of James, the others migrated, and I felt certain that these were my people, but what made the study most difficult at this point, was the fact that there were two George Keaheys about the same age and living in the same community, and each with a wife, Margaret, who was a Keahey cousin! How was I to prove which George belonged to which brother, and which Margaret belonged to which?

I spent a week in Jackson, Miss. doing research in the State Archives, and amassed a large file of information on land purchases, tax records, census reports, and militia records, all of which helped in the general knowledge of the family, but did not help on the main problem. There were no wills or deeds of gift to help me, and I was despairing of a solution, when I chanced on the name of the cousin who had begun the family history some years ago. He was Dr. William Angus McLeod, long the Presbyterian minister in Cuero, Texas, but now deceased. I dispatched a letter to Cuero which was forwarded to Dr. McLeod's widow who was living with their daughter-in-law in McAllen, Texas. Dr. McLeod's only son, William Angus, Jr., was also deceased, and his widow, Helen McLeod, had worked for years with Dr. McLeod on his records and had preserved them after his death. He very generously shared with me the diaries, letters, and charts he had, but only by putting together what I had and what Dr. McLeod had were we able to solve the mystery. Rev. McLeod had been sent the Bible Record of George Burder Keahey by Rev. Norton Keahey, of Erath County, Texas, in which were the names of George Burder's father, James Keahey, and his wife, Mary Jackson, together with the marriage dates of George Burder and his cousin, Margaret Keahey, daughter of George Keahey, the brother who had died back in North Carolina. Margaret's mother was Sarah McFarland, sister of the first Ruling Elder of the old Madelphus Church. I had the Will of the elder brother, George Keahey, and I knew that my George Jackson Keahey did NOT go to him; therefore, it was George Burder's sister, Margaret, sister of James, who married George Jackson Keahey, and had to be the son of John.⁴ I'll never know if it was the foresight of those Keahey fathers, or that of their Jackson wives who prompted them to give those boys such distinctive middle names, but I am eternally grateful to whomever it was.

I began, as many amateur genealogists do, with the intent of tracing my own lines back to the immigrant ancestors and stop. But the fascination of this study gripped me so that I am doing what I never intended—tracing the descendants of all three Keahey brothers. I only regret that I cannot say that I know the descent of all the issue of their parents. We do not

As Annie McFarland said that my George J. Keahey was a brother of her grandfather, William Keahey and he was a son of John.

know the name of their father, and we know only that their mother was named Margaret. This genealogy is far from complete, and some of the data reported to me may be in error, from being copied by so many people over the years; some branches are obtained from a family chart which did not have dates. Efforts to contact descendants who might have supplied the dates were often fruitless. Any descendant who has more exact knowledge is invited to write to Mrs. J. F. Reeves, 1620 Redbud St., Nacogdoches, Texas 75961.

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The Keahey Family

The Keahey name has undergone many changes in spelling, but not in pronunciation. It is a Scottish, or Gaelic name variously spelled, MacGeachie, MacGeachey, MacKeachie, MacKeachey, MacGaughey, etc. The "ch" before the last syllable was not pronounced as we do it in modern English; it was a strongly aspirated, or "h" sound; thus, as time went by, our ancestors dropped the prefix, Mac; some census taker spelled the name phonetically, and it came out as we have it today: Keahey. We know that the three brothers who are listed in the 1790 Census of Richmond County, N.C. spelled it MacKeachie until about the time of the move to Mississippi between 1813 and 1817, where it appears on tax lists as Keachey and Keahey. There are in many parts of the country families with other spellings of the name, and evidence abounds that they are of the same stock as our family, but research to prove such will be left to others.

The Keahey Clan was a Sept of the Clan Ranald MacDonald. Clan Donald has its roots deep in the old Gaelic and Pictish times, with additions from the Norsemen. Many branches of the family have a recorded history back to the Twelfth Century, and in ancient times the Chief of the Clan MacDonald was recognized as Lord of the Isles.⁵ Some idea of the magnitude of such a position may be had when we find that those Isles are what we call the Hebrides today, comprising 250 islands off the west coast of Scotland.

It is family tradition that the Keaheys left Scotland because of religious persecution; resided briefly in North Ireland, and then came to Pennsylvania.⁶

We know that Irish immigration to America began about 1717, and the next year there were 42,000 Scotch-Irish who left for the colonies. In 1729 there arrived at Philadelphia 5,655 Irish immigrants, and after the potato famine in 1741 about 12,000 annually left until the time of the Revolution. In

⁵Donald Monro, *Western Isles of Scotland*, p. 146.

⁶Lancaster County, Pa. Tax List, 1751-1758, p. 3 in 1751, in Manor Twp Assessments: John Keghey, 90s;

Donegal Twp: James MacFarland 5s
Robert MacFarland 4s

There is a possibility that these are our people, but we cannot assume

all the towns there were displayed posters advertising the sailings from Belfast and Londonderry to Philadelphia and Newcastle.

I have tried vainly to locate the Keaheys or MacKeacheys in Ireland, hoping to find marriage records and thus find the surnames of Christian Jackson and Margaret MacKeachey. This does not prove that they were not there, however. Many Irish records were destroyed during the War. An examination of the map will show that the East Coast of Ireland is only a short distance from Wigtown in extreme Southwest Scotland, where there have been many of this name for centuries past.⁷

While it is true that hordes of our Scotch-Irish kin came by way of Pennsylvania, we cannot overlook the fact that the earliest, largest, and most numerous settlement of Highlanders in America was the one in North Carolina from 1729-76.⁸ The Scots were the only large group to come to North Carolina directly from their native land. In 1740 Gov. Johnson, himself a Scot, had a ten-year tax-free law passed to encourage the Scots to come over. Soon after this the Scots were defeated at Culloden by the English; the clan system was broken up; estates were confiscated; and Scots were forbidden to wear the Clan Plaids, or to bear arms. Rents were increased, and great suffering followed. The king offered "pardon" to all rebels who would take the oath of allegiance and go to America. The Scots took advantage of this offer by the thousands. There was even a popular dance-hall tune about going to North Carolina to seek a fortune.

Early Virginia records⁹ indicate that some of the name of MacKeachey were there in the early Seventeenth Century, and Kegley's *Frontier Virginia* had a James MacKeachey on the Roanoke in Botetourt County, Va. in 1750 living near his brother-in-law, John Mason, and dealing with a mill owner named Preston. My own ancestor in North Carolina used both these names as given names for two of his children. There is a possibility that this man is a relative, but of what degree, I do not know. I have his will,¹⁰ and he does not seem to be the father of the three brothers in North Carolina.

The first documented trace we have of our ancestors is in

⁷Scottish Record Society Testaments, 1700-1800; vols. 22, 25, 47.

⁸North Carolina History by Lefler, p. 72.

⁹English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records, by Louis Cognets, pp. 60-62.

¹⁰Will proved Sept. 1805 in Botetourt County, Va., mentions wife, Rebecca son, Andrew.

Richmond County, N. C., where John, James and George MacKeachey appear on the 1790 Census; however, tradition has it that both the Keaheys and the Jacksons came from Pennsylvania to North Carolina about 1770. My search in Pennsylvania has not been sufficiently thorough to allow a statement that they were not there, but I am of the opinion that our ancestors were of the Scots who came directly to North Carolina.¹² Dr. William Angus McLeod says, "Dr. A. C. Bethune, of Raeford, N. C., the best living authority on those Scots of pre-Revolutionary times, says that both the Jacksons and the Keaheys were Tories. He defends them by saying that anybody who was anybody in that section was a Tory."¹¹ That being the case, I find it easy to believe that they had not been in the Colonies long, for they would likely have been indoctrinated by the Revolutionary spirit, if they had.¹²

In this search, I have repeatedly run across the tradition that we were some way connected to the Flora MacDonald legend. I had not realized the significance of such a possibility until I found that in North Carolina, Flora MacDonald is as much a part of the state's beloved tradition as is Pocahontas in Virginia. I still do not have proof that we are connected—perhaps it comes through one of these ancestresses whose maiden name eludes us—but after reading her colorful and romantic story, I have a better insight into why those Scotsmen who were loyal Clansmen, and related by blood to the Stuart cause, could do nothing else but fight for the Crown.¹³

¹¹Diary of Dr. Wm. Angus McLeod, dated Aug. 31, 1938.

¹²Rev. McLeod mentions a letter from Mary McKinnon which says that the Jacksons and Kealeys came into Charleston, S. C. and thence to North Carolina and not from Pennsylvania.

¹³Prince Charles Edward, grandson of King James II of England, had hopes of ascending the throne, but on the 16 Apr. 1746 the battle of Culloden put an end to those hopes, and Bonnie Prince Charlie fled to the Scottish Highlands with a price set on his head, and relentlessly pursued. Escape seemed impossible. It happened that young Flora MacDonald conspired with Capt. O'Neill, one of the Prince's companions, and a desperate plan was made to smuggle Prince Charles out of the country in the disguise of Flora's waiting maid. It would be exceedingly difficult, for all the roads were watched, and every port was guarded. Flora's own future father-in-law, Duke of Cumberland, Hugh McDonald, was one of the Captains in the search. The exciting story of their flight is mentioned by Sir Walter Scott, by Boswell, and by Lockhart, Sir Walter's biographer. Charles did make good his escape to France, and lived out his life in exile. Talk of the boatmen aroused suspicion, and Flora was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London. After her trial, in which she impressed Judge and Jury with her bravery and good sense, she was allowed to live outside the Tower in the care of a jailer. When the Act of Indemnity was passed in 1747

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Jackson descendants say that William Jackson was killed in the early days of the war, possibly in this battle at Moore's Creek, for it was in Moore County that the Jacksons and Keaheys first lived. It is presumed that the elder MacKeachey met his fate in like manner, and possibly many of the older sons of both families. There is only one son left in the Jackson family¹⁴ (see Christian's will), and three seems to be a small number of sons for the MacKeachey family, considering the size of families in those days.

There are many land grants and deeds in Richmond County, N. C. to MacKeacheys; one of the grants in 1780 is to Margaret MacKeachey who would have had to be a widow to qualify. She seems to be the mother of John, James, and George, for James MacKeachey sold that land in 1823 after his move to Mississippi. There is a tantalizing possibility that there were several MacKeachey sisters, but until further research, we can only guess.

she was set at liberty. In 1750 she married Allan MacDonald and they emigrated to America in 1773 and settled at Cambelton, later called Fayetteville. The ruins of their house may still be seen there. Alan MacDonald held a commission in the army under the Royal Governor, and when the Chief of a Clant sent out a rallying call, no Clansman refused him. On 27 Feb., 1776 the Scots were met at the mouth of Moore's Creek by the forces of Caswell and Lillington; a desperate engagement ensued and the Scots were defeated. Captains John Campbell and McLeod were killed, and Flora's husband was imprisoned with many others. After his release he and Flora, their lands confiscated, returned to Scotland where she died in 1790.

¹⁴Abstract of the will of Christian Jackson. Carthage, Moore County, N. C., Office of the Superior Court Clerk, Will Book A, p. 272; Will dated 1804; probated 1812.

Mentioned in the Will: Eldest daughter, Mary Keachey; daughter, Martha Keachey; son, George Jackson.

Grandchildren: John Dunn, Samuel Dunn, Jesse Overton, Samuel Overton, Casey Overton, Martha Overton, Samuel Jackson, William Jackson, Mary Jackson, alias MacIntosh, Christian Jackson, alias Lewis, Margaret Jackson, Mary Jackson, Joseph Jackson

Natural daughter of George Jackson, Beady Jackson

Executor: Son, George Jackson

Witnesses: William Martin, Alexander MacLeod

CHAPTER I

Descendants of James Keahey

1. James MacKeachey was born in Ireland ca 1749; died in Wayne County, Miss. in Sept. 1823. He married Mary Jane Jackson who died in 1813 in Richmond County, N. C. just one year after her mother's death in Moore County nearby. She was born in Ireland in 1750. The 1790 Census of Richmond County, N. C. shows James and Mary to have had seven children: 5 boys and 2 girls. A check of the 1800 and 1810 Censuses shows the same number. Fortunately, we have records of all these. The Bible Record of George Burder Keahey lists them as follows:
 2. i Samuel Keahey = Isabella Patterson
 - ii Eleanor Keahey = (sec. wife of) John McFarland, first Ruling Elder of the Philadelphia Presbyterian Church. No issue.
 3. iii James Keahey = Lydia Autrey
 4. iv John Keahey = Elizabeth Patterson
 5. v George Burder Keahey = Margaret Keahey (George)
 6. vi Margaret Keahey = George Jackson Keahey (John)
 7. vii William Keahey = wife unknown
2. Samuel Keahey (James) = Isabella Patterson, b 26 March, 1786; dau. of Daniel Patterson and Margaret Graham Patterson. Will of Samuel Keahey in Robeson County, N. C., proved in Aug. 1834 lists his children:
 - i Daniel Keahey
 - ii George Keahey
 - iii Mary Ann Keahey
 - iv Margaret Keahey

¹⁵Mary Jackson was dau of Col. William Jackson and wife, Christian, of Moore County, N. C. Christian's will, previously mentioned, lists Mary and her sister, Martha, wife of John Keahey.

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- v Eliza Keahey
- vi James Keahey
- vii Samuel Keahey, will pr. Taladega County, Ala.
11 Feb. 1859.
- 3. James Keahey (James) = Lydia Autrey²
 - i Lydia Ann Keahey
 - ii Margaret Keahey
 - 8. iii John P. Keahey = Winnie Godwin
 - 9. iv Elijah John Keahey = Catherine Bethune
 - 10. v Archie Keahey = Martha Robertson
 - 11. vi George Keahey = Effie Godwin
- 4. John Keahey (James) = Elizabeth Patterson³
 - i William Jackson Keahey, b c 1812; was a lawyer in Charlotte, N. C. He d 1843; unmarried, and is buried near the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Charlotte.
 - ii Keahey son, d in infancy
 - 12. iii Margaret Keahey = John C. Currie⁴

²Family Records of Mrs. Norton Keahey, Bluff Dale, Tex. Taladega Co., Ala., Will Book B, pp. 237-8. Samuel's will mentions his mother and all his sisters and brothers except Daniel who may have been dead. The families all seem to be living nearby.

³Rev. Wm. Angus McLeod says in his Diary, 1938, "I am the great-grandson of John Keahey who ca 1810 married Elizabeth Patterson of Cumberland Co., N. C. They lived in the very same community where I was born and lived until I was twenty-one years old. The oldest daughter, Margaret, married John C. Currie and was my maternal grandmother. She was b in 1816, and lived until I was seventeen years old. My grandmother's oldest brother was named William Jackson for his great-grandfather, William Jackson of Moore County, N. C. Grandmother named her oldest son William Jackson Currie, and Mother named me William for the same ancestor who was a Loyalist and was killed in the early days of the Revolution."

Rev. McLeod mentions the same information to a cousin, Mrs. G. E. Ellis of Waynesboro, Miss. in a letter dated in 1938.

⁴The writings of Rev. McLeod contain the following: "John Keahey committed suicide when his daughter, Margaret, was about eight years old. I have heard her tell a few things about that tragic event, but it was not one she often discussed. On a few occasions I went with her to the old Patterson graveyard, a lonely spot between Buffalo Creek and its tributary, Gin Branch, just across the latter stream from our home. Margaret spoke of her father, John Keahey, as a man of good repute, from a family of prominent people. No one ever knew why he killed himself. One tradition is that in his youth he and a friend were "bled" by an old doctor, as the fashion was in those days, and the blood of the two was caught in the same basin, thus becoming mixed. A prevailing superstition was that in cases like that, where bloods mixed, whatever caused the death of one would cause the death of the other. John's friend committed suicide, and when John heard of it, the superstition began to prey on his mind in a terrible fashion until he, too, took his own life. All this, of course, is only tradition.

John Keahey was something of a mechanic, and had a workshop where he did his work. One morning, shortly before his death, his son, William,

- iv Mary Keahey never married; d c 1895 in N. C.
- v Archibald Keahey, b 1821; went with the Patterson family to Alabama; developed tuberculosis; returned home where he d 13 July 1855.
- vi Elizabeth Keahey = Lauchlin McFadgen. Their descendants still reside near Raeford, N. C.
- 5. George Burder Keahey (James) b Feb. 1790, d 19 Feb. 1852; = Margaret Keahey, b 1800; dau of George and Sarah McFarland Keahey.
 - i William Samples Keahey = Ann Amantha Durst
 - 13. ii James Alfred Keahey = Carolina Munro
 - 14. iii George J. Keahey = Rosie McMinn
 - 15. iv John Flavil Keahey = Elizabeth White
 - 16. v Samuel Newell Keahey = Prudence Hanks
 - vi Margaret Ann Keahey = Thomas A. White

In the fall of 1823 the two elders of the Keahey Clan: John and James, died in Wayne County, Miss. Efforts to locate their graves have been fruitless. They are not in the cemetery at

then thirteen years old, was sent to the shop to call his father to breakfast. The lad was horror-stricken to find his father lying on the ground, over a little trench he had dug in the floor, with a huge knife in his hand ready to cut his throat. The arrival of his son seemed to break the spell. Startled and embarrassed, he jumped to his feet, put away the knife and charged his son never to mention to anyone what he had just seen. "and let this be the last thing YOU will ever think of doing!"

The son was too horrified to think of telling what he had seen, until after his father's death. Mrs. Daniel Patterson was there taking care of Elizabeth who was near death from tuberculosis, and keeping house for the family. Soon after this, John Keahey rushed into the house and grabbed his gun from the rack, as he often did when a hawk was threatening the chickens. A few minutes later he lay dead behind the smokehouse. Elizabeth died not long after.

Margaret, and her two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, went home with the Patterson grandmother. In 1836 John C. Currie came to the community to teach school. He fell in love with one of his pupils, Margaret Keahey, and married her. John C. Currie, third child, and oldest son of Angus and Flora (Curry) Curry. He was b 3 Oct. 1803; d 23 May 1880. He was typical of the Scots who inhabited that part of North Carolina. Most of them spoke only Gaelic, but John was educated in English. He was a devout Presbyterian; Rev. Wm. Angus McLeod recalls his grandfather as rather stern, but Margaret was beautiful, and angelic in disposition. No man surpassed John C. Currie in regard for the true and good. He loved righteousness and hated iniquity, while Margaret loved righteousness, but pitied iniquity. He was the "law" and she was the "Gospel." John C. was a modest man, and though he was eminently qualified, he never sought nor would accept public or Church office. He was a Major in the Militia; in politics (says Rev. McLeod) "he was a Democrat, however, before Democracy had so completely fallen into the hands of scum of the foreign elements of the big cities." (A sentiment which has been echoed by many other Keahey descendants who have felt that the Democratic party left all its principles, before many of its members began to leave it.)

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Philadelphus Presbyterian Church, and evidently are buried on their home farm, as was so often done. After their deaths the clan began to scatter; my own branch moved to what was later Scott County, Miss.; only James' son, William, remained in Wayne County, Miss.; George Burder Keahey moved to East Alabama where Margaret's brothers were living. Margaret Keahey died there in 1851 and the next year George Burder Keahey with all his family (except James Alfred who had married, and chose to remain) set out for Cherokee County, Texas where other Keahey relatives were located. George Burder became ill at Alexandria, La. and on 19 Feb. 1852 he died in New Orleans.

In the Court House in Rusk, Texas we found in Drawer 78 of Old Estate Records the whole story. William Samples Keahey declared himself the eldest son, with no surviving mother, and petitioned the Court to be made Administrator of his father's estate which was composed of seven slaves, farm machinery, wagons, livestock and household goods. The inventory and appraisal were made by James Clark, Marshall Stafford, and Isaac Durst (possibly the father-in-law or brother-in-law of William Samples who married Ann Amantha Durst). He made bond of \$8,000 (a considerable sum in those days) and was appointed Administrator.

The inventory of the estate mentioned a six-volume set of an old Scottish Bible, and four other Bibles. Evidently, one of these would be the Bible of James and Mary Keahey, parents of George Burder Keahey, given into the possession of George Norton Keahey, from which his wife, Nancy Edmiston Keahey secured the information she sent to Rev. William Angus McLeod in the days when they were trying to unravel the mystery of family relationships.

Cherokee County Court Minutes of Jan. 1858 list the six heirs of George Burder Keahey: 1. James A. Keahey, resident of Dale County, Ala., John F. Keahey, resident of Van Zant County, Texas, and William S., George J., Samuel N., and Margaret Ann Keahey, all of Cherokee County, Texas. Margaret Ann was a minor and George J. was appointed her guardian.

It is not surprising that descendants of this branch of the

Richmond Co., N. C. Deed Bk. N, p. 383 lists William, John, and George Keahey, all of Pike Co., Ala., legal heirs of the landed estate of George Keahey. Deceased (1807) late of Richmond Co., N. C.

The Will of George MacKeahey was dated 31 Oct. 1807; admitted for probate in the Jan. Term of Court, 1808.

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family have confused ideas of William Samples as the father rather than the elder brother. In none of the family charts and records I have seen does William S. appear in his rightful place.

6. Margaret Keahey (James) = George Jackson Keahey* (John). Margaret, b 25 May 1799 in Richmond County, N. C., d Scott County, Miss. May 1847; = 19 Sept. 1816 to her double first cousin: their fathers were brothers; their mothers were sisters. George Jackson Keahey, b 12 Apr. 1789 in Richmond County, N. C.; d 3 Apr. 1878 in Scott County, Miss.

- 17. i John Robert Jackson Keahey = Martha Slay
- ii Martha Graham Keahey, b 1 Oct. 1819
- iii Christian Mason Keahey, b 17 Sept. 1821
- 18. iv George Pleasant Keahey = Susan Berry
- v Margaret Malinda Keahey, b 1827
- 19. vi Virginia Caroline Keahey = Wm. Bryan Jackson
- vii Irene le Jane Keahey, b 4 May 1831
- viii Sarah Emaline Keahey, b 27 Apr. 1834
- ix Mary Ann Keahey, b 5 March 1837

20. x Preston Gustavius Keahey = Amanda Cox

After the death of Margaret, George Jackson Keahey,⁷ who had moved from Wayne to Scott County, Miss. married the widow Copander. There was no issue. It is presumed that all three are buried in unmarked graves on the Keahey plot in the Hillsboro, Miss. Cemetery. The only two graves that are marked are those of my grandfather, Alvia Wiggin Keahey, and of his brother, James A. Keahey. There is an open space the size of three graves just west of these graves.

Hillsboro in the early days was the county seat⁸ and a thriving town until nearby Forrest was selected for the railroad and soon outstripped Hillsboro. In 1866 Forrest won the designation as county seat, and the enmity of the people of Hillsboro who three times tore down the new court house under construction. It took an act of the legislature in 1873 to quell the disturbance and convince the people of Hillsboro that they must give up the county seat. Many people, including the Keahey

*The George Jackson Keahey Bible Record was copied by his youngest son and given to Miss Annie McFarland, a retired school teacher in Heidelberg, Miss. She gave it to the writer.

⁷Census of Scott Co., Miss., 1850.

⁸American Guide Series, Guide to the Magnolia State, p. 496.

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- garet, James) = 1. Marvell; = 2. Calvin Brown. Brenda was b 11 Jan. 1948.
- i Billie Raymond Marvell, b 14 Jan. 1966
4. Linda Kay Ensminger (Neva, Linnie, Andrew, Geo. P., Margaret, James) b 16 Nov. 1946; = 29 Oct. 1965 Larry Sidney Lumpkin, b 6 Dec. 1943 in Battle Neck, Ark.
- i Larry Sidney Lumpkin, Jr., b 13 Oct. 1967
5. Sharon Kay Kemp (Winnie, Juanita, Margaret, Virginia, Margaret, James) b 5 Oct. 1942; = James Donald Blackman
- i Melissa Kay Blackman, b 10 Apr. 1966
 - ii James Donald Blackman, Jr., b 25 May 1964
6. Mary Ann Kemp (Winnie, Juanita, Marg. Virginia, Virginia, Margaret, James) b 18 Oct. 1943; = Sam Muchio
- i Stephen Muchio, b 10 Jan. 1964
 - ii Graydon Muchio, b 27 Aug. 1967

CHAPTER II

Descendants of John MacKeachey

After the American Revolution, life in North Carolina for the Scotsmen was very hard, particularly so for those who had been Tory in their sympathies, as we know that the Jacksons and possibly the MacKeacheys had. The 1780 tax list of Cumberland, later part of Moore County, shows their taxes increased fourfold. Some of the youngest clansmen were sent west to investigate the reports of land being opened up in the Indian country. Among these early scouts were the two sons of John MacKeachey: William and John Jr. In 1813 in Wayne County, Miss. Territory we find that John Jr. and William MacKeachey had each bought 150 acres on the Chickasawhay River, and paid taxes on it and owned one slave each.

When the Caravan of Scotsmen arrived c 1815, John Sr. bought two tracts of land, one of 177 acres on the Chickasawhay, and one of 240 acres on the Buckatunna. He also paid taxes on three slaves. This land was about nine miles north of the present town of Waynesboro, Miss. (then called Boyce) at what is known now as Old West King; it was known then as the Keahey settlement.

John and his brother, James, were old men when they went to Mississippi, and both died in the fall of 1823. There is said to be a Keahey burial ground near Hywannee, Miss. in which many of the early settlers were buried. It is presumed that John, James, and John's wife Martha Jackson, are among those buried there, but we do not know. After their deaths the clan began to scatter—some back east to Alabama, some west to what was later Scott County, Miss., some to places unknown.

From a study of the three censuses: 1790, 1800, and 1810 of Richmond County, N. C. we know that John MacKeachey had three daughters and five sons. We have records of only one daughter, and of only three sons: John Jr., William, and George Jackson Keahey; the daughter was Mary who married John McFarland. In the 1790 Census John MacKeachey, Sr. had one son under 16, and one over 16; thus we think that John, Jr.

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CHAPTER III

Descendants of George MacKeahey

George MacKeahey, b c 1755 in Ireland, married Sarah MacFarland, daughter of Rev. John MacFarland who came to North Carolina in 1770. Sarah was also the sister of John MacFarland, Jr. who was the first Ruling Elder of the old Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, which was organized in the Keahey home in Waynesboro, Miss. in 1821. George MacKeahey's will was drawn 31 Oct. 1807, and proved in Jan. 1808. His estate papers show that his three sons, John, William and George, were living in Pike County, Ala. at the time of the settlement of the estate when Sarah¹ joined the Caravan of Scots in the migration to Mississippi. Later census records show his family living in Dale County, Ala.

We are in some doubt as to how many children George had: the 1790 Census of Richmond County, N.C. lists, besides the parents, one male under 16. This child must have died, for the 1800 Census lists no male besides the father; listed are: 1 female under 10; and the mother in the 16-26 age group; the 1810 Census (same county) lists in the household of Sarah Keahey, George's widow, 3 males under 10; 2 females under 10; and 2 females 26-45. It would seem that George had five children living at that time. One of those older females was Sarah, and the other must have been a relative or a housekeeper living with her. We cannot believe from earlier records that she was a daughter of George. We know that one of those daughters was Margaret, b 1800, who married her first cousin, George Burder Keahey, son of James. Their family records are well preserved, but we do not know who the other daughter was, nor what became of her. It seems probable that she was living in Dale County, Ala., for Margaret and her family stayed only a few years in Mississippi; they moved to Dale County, Ala., between 1825 and 1830 (their oldest son, James Alfred, was b

¹Richmond County, N.C. Deed Book N, p 383

Keahey

1825 in Wayne County, Miss., but Geo. Burder was on the Alabama tax list in Dale County in 1830, and all the other children were born in Alabama, according to the 1850 Census).

1. George MacKeahey, b c 1755 in Ireland = Sarah McFarland
 2. i Margaret MacKeahey = Geo. Burder Keahey
 3. ii William Keahey = Mary
 4. iii John Keahey = Sarah Eliza Metcalf ✓
 5. iv George Keahey, b 1808; d after 1880
2. Margaret Keahey (George) b 27 Oct. 1800 in Richmond² County, N.C.; d 8 Apr. 1851 in Dale County, Ala.; = 24 Dec. 1822 George Burder Keahey (son of James) b 16 Feb. 1790 in Richmond County, N.C.; d 19 Feb. 1852 in New Orleans, La. (He was on his way to Cherokee County, Texas. Estate papers in Rusk, Texas.)
 6. i James Alfred Keahey = Carol Ann Munro
 - ii Mary Jackson Keahey, b 1828; untraced
 - iii William Samples Keahey, b 1831; = Ann Amantha Durst
 7. iv John Flavil Keahey = Elizabeth White
 8. v George Jackson Keahey = Rosa McMinn
 - vi Sarah Jane Keahey, b 1836; d young
 9. vii Samuel Newell Keahey = Prudence Hanks
 - viii Martin Elijah Keahey, b 1840; untraced
 - ix Margaret Ann Keahey, b 1842 = Thos. A. White
3. William Keahey (George) b 1803 Richmond County, N.C.³ = Mary
- i George W. Keahey, b 1830 Dale County, Ala.
- ii Margaret Keahey, b 1831
- iii Nancy A. Keahey, b 1833
- iv Miles L. Keahey, b 1836
- v James D. Keahey, b 1838
- vi Martha Keahey, b 1840

²The Bible of George Burder Keahey was in the keeping of Mrs. Norton Keahey of Bluff Dale, Texas at the time she was corresponding with Rev. Wm. Angus McLeod. The dates in the 1850 Census of Dale County, Ala. prove that George and Margaret were in Wayne County, Miss. only a short time. Their oldest son was b there in 1825, but George Burder was on the 1830 Tax List in Dale County, Ala. and all the other children were born in Alabama.

³In this household in the 1860 Census was living Angus McInnes, b 1775 in Scotland, possibly the father of Mary. There were also two small children: Henry, b 1858; Isaiah, b 1859—whether Keahey or McInnes is not shown.

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- vii William G. Keahey, b 1842
- viii John Keahey, b 1844
- ix Sarah Keahey, b 1846; all in Dale County, Ala.
- 4. John Keahey (George) b 1806 in Richmond County, N. C.
= Sarah Eliza Metcalf, b 1815 in Georgia
 - i James Keahey, b 1836
 - ii William Keahey, b 1838
 - iii George Keahey, b 1840
 - iv Mary A. Keahey, b 1843
 - v John Findley Keahey, b 1845
 - vi Samuel Keahey, b 1847
 - vii Sarah P. Keahey, b 1852
- 10. viii Thomas J. Keahey, b 1854
- 5. George MacKeahey (George) b 1808 after his father's death; was living alone in dwelling #689 at the time of the 1850 Dale County, Ala. Census. We do not know if he was a widower or bachelor—still living in 1880 Census.
- 6. James Alfred Keahey (Margaret, George) b 1825 Wayne County, Miss. = c 1845 Carol Ann Munro, b 1824 in N. C.
 - i George Keahey, b 1847 Dale County, Ala.
 - ii John M. Keahey, b 1849
 - iii James Angus Keahey, b 1852
 - iv Catherine Keahey, b 1854
- 11. v Rev. Neal B. Keahey, b 1856
- vi Daniel Keahey, b 1859; all in Dale County, Ala.
- 7. John Flavil Keahey (Margaret, George) b 1833 Dale County, Ala., d 1881; = Rachel Elizabeth White
 - i Elizabeth J. Keahey = Joseph E. Winn
 - ii Columbia Barcelona Keahey = Albert Connors
- 12. iii Mary Margaret Keahey = Jacob Tinnin
- iv Olivia Ann Keahey = Robert L. Deaver
- 13. v Martin Andrew Keahey = Ceretha Ann Rusk
- iv George Norton Keahey, b 19 July 1874; Erath County, Texas; d 17 July 1946; = 1920 Nancy Edmiston whose work in preserving and disseminating knowledge of family history merits the eternal gratitude of all Keahey descendants. They had no issue.

References for these lines are given in other chapters.

- 8. George Jackson Keahey (Margaret, George) b 22 Sept. 1834 in Dale County, Ala.; d 17 Feb. 1863 in Cherokee County, Texas; = Rosa Adeline McMinn, who after his death = A. J. Hopper
 - i Jefferson D. Keahey, b 1857; d young
- 14. ii James Robt. Keahey = Martha Melvina Grammer
- 9. Samuel Newell Keahey (Margaret, George) b 1838 in Dale County, Ala.; = Prudence Hanks
 - 15. i Joyce Ann Keahey = William N. White
 - 16. ii Susan Margaret Keahey = Dr. Thomas H. Geddie
 - 17. iii Levi Keahey = Mary Geddie
 - 18. iv Samuel Hampton Keahey = 1. Amy Stewart; = 2. her sister, Ethel Stewart
 - v George Keahey
 - vi Dellis Keahey
- 10. Thomas Jefferson Keahey (John, George) b 15 Aug. 1853 in Dale Co., Ala.; d 9 Dec. 1934 in Wilson, Okla.; = Frances Arrener King, b 17 Aug. 1855 in Ga.; d 24 Aug. 1924
 - i Clara Bell Keahey = Charles Deitrich
 - ii Archie Keahey = Molly
 - iii Sarah Elizabeth Keahey = James A. Harrell
 - iv John A. Keahey = Ida Boatwright
- 19. v Thomas Jefferson Keahey, Jr. = Grady Hill
- 11. Rev. Neal B. Keahey (Jas. A., Margaret, George) b 1856 in Dale County, Ala.; = wife unknown
 - i Naomi Keahey = George B. Tate
 - ii John Keahey, killed in Civil War
 - iii George Keahey
 - iv Angus Keahey
- 12. Mary Margaret Keahey (John F., Margaret, George) = Jacob Tinnin
 - i Flavil Tinnin
 - ii Minnie Tinnin = Ellis Blanton
- 13. Martin Andrew Keahey (John F., Margaret, George) b 9 Feb. 1864, Dale County, Ala.; d 1951; = 15 Sept. 1889 Ceretha Ann Rusk, b 15 July 1870; d 1937
 - 20. i Lena Keahey = Thad Mullins
 - ii John Clifford Keahey, killed in W.W.I
 - 21. iii Floy Keahey = Earl White
 - 22. iv Thomas Rusk Keahey = Mabel Geddie
 - 23. v Myrtice Keahey = Ernest Ruyter